

Remarks

Claims 1-23 were pending. By way of this response, claims 9-11, 13, and 14 have been amended, and claims 17-23 have been cancelled. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the application as originally filed, and no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are currently pending.

In the November 5, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner is requiring election of a single species selected from one of claims 8-11.

Applicant hereby elects the species of claim 8. However, in view of the amendments to the claims set forth above, applicant submits that claims 1-9 and 11-16 read on the elected species.

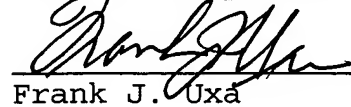
Applicant reserves the right to present additional species upon the allowance of a generic claim or claims.

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In conclusion, applicant submits that the present claims, that is claims 1-16 are allowable. Therefore, applicant requests the Examiner to pass the above-identified application to issuance at an early date. Should any matters remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to call (collect) applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below.

Date: December 5, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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